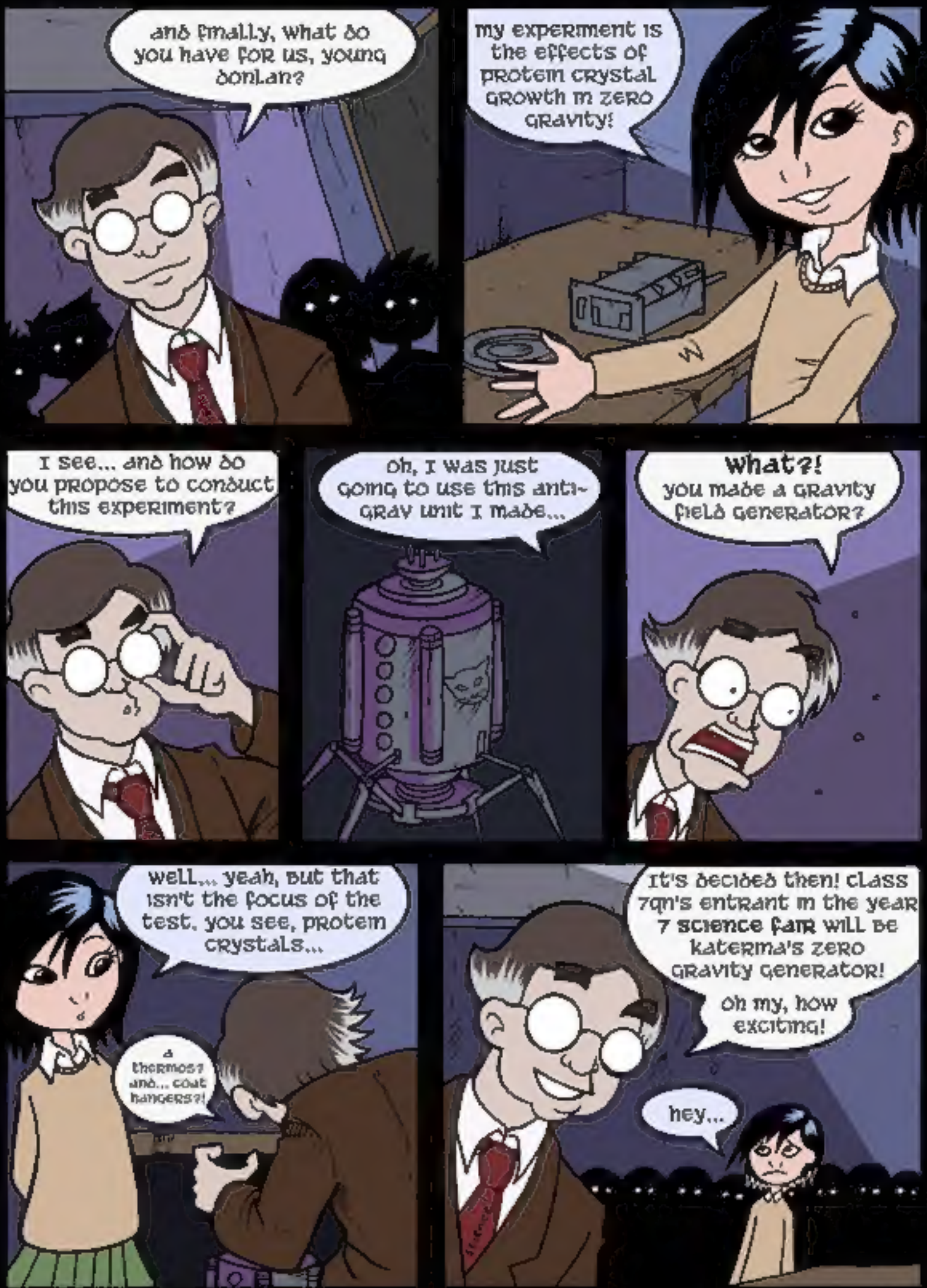
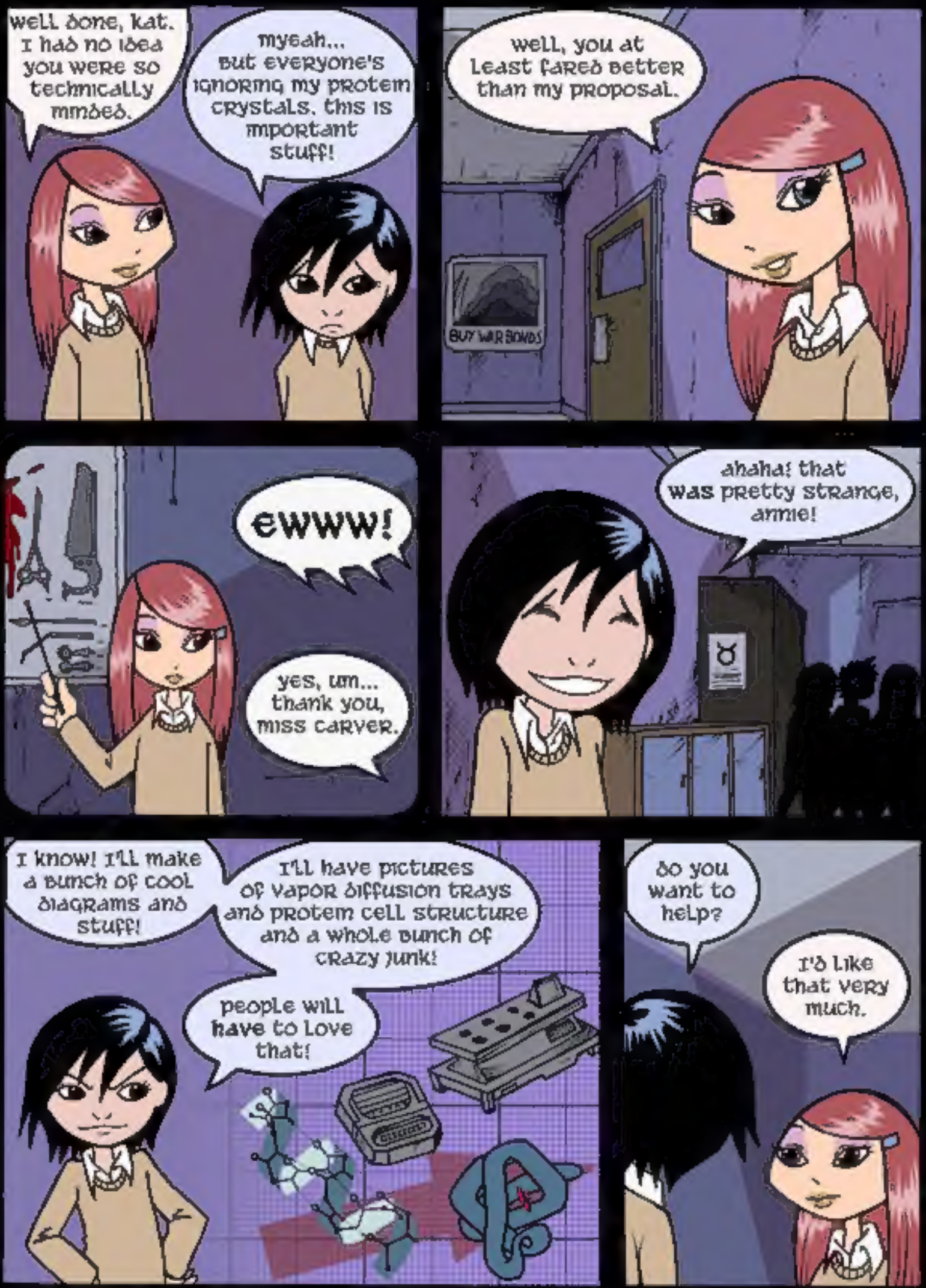
Gunnerkrigg Court

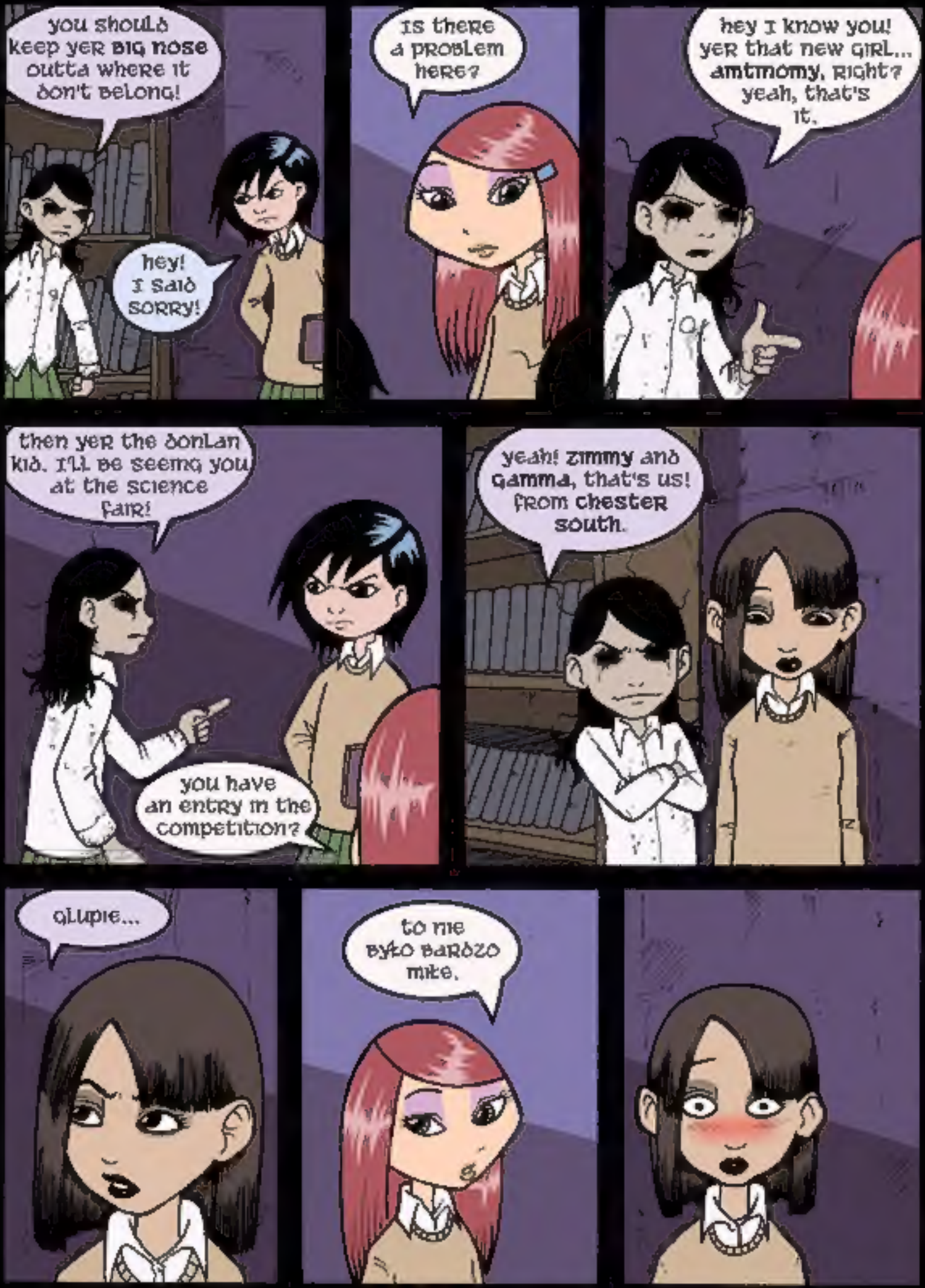
Chapter 5:

Two Strange Girls


and finally, what do you have for us, young donlan?
my experiment is the effects of protein crystal growth in zero gravity!
I see... and how do you propose to conduct this experiment?
oh, I was just going to use this anti-grav unit I made...
what?! you made a gravity field generator?
well... yeah, but that isn't the focus of the test. you see, protein crystals...
a thermos? and... coat hangers?!
it's decided then! class 7qn's entrant in the year 7 science fair will be katerma's zero gravity generator!
oh my, how exciting!
hey...


well done, kat. I had no idea you were so technically minded.
myeah... but everyone's ignoring my protein crystals. this is important stuff!
well, you at least fared better than my proposal.
BUY WAR BONDS
ewww!
yes, um... thank you, miss carver.
ahaha! that was pretty strange, annie!
I know! I'll make a bunch of cool diagrams and stuff!
I'll have pictures of vapor diffusion trays and protein cell structure and a whole bunch of crazy junk!
people will have to love that!
so you want to help?
I'd like that very much.

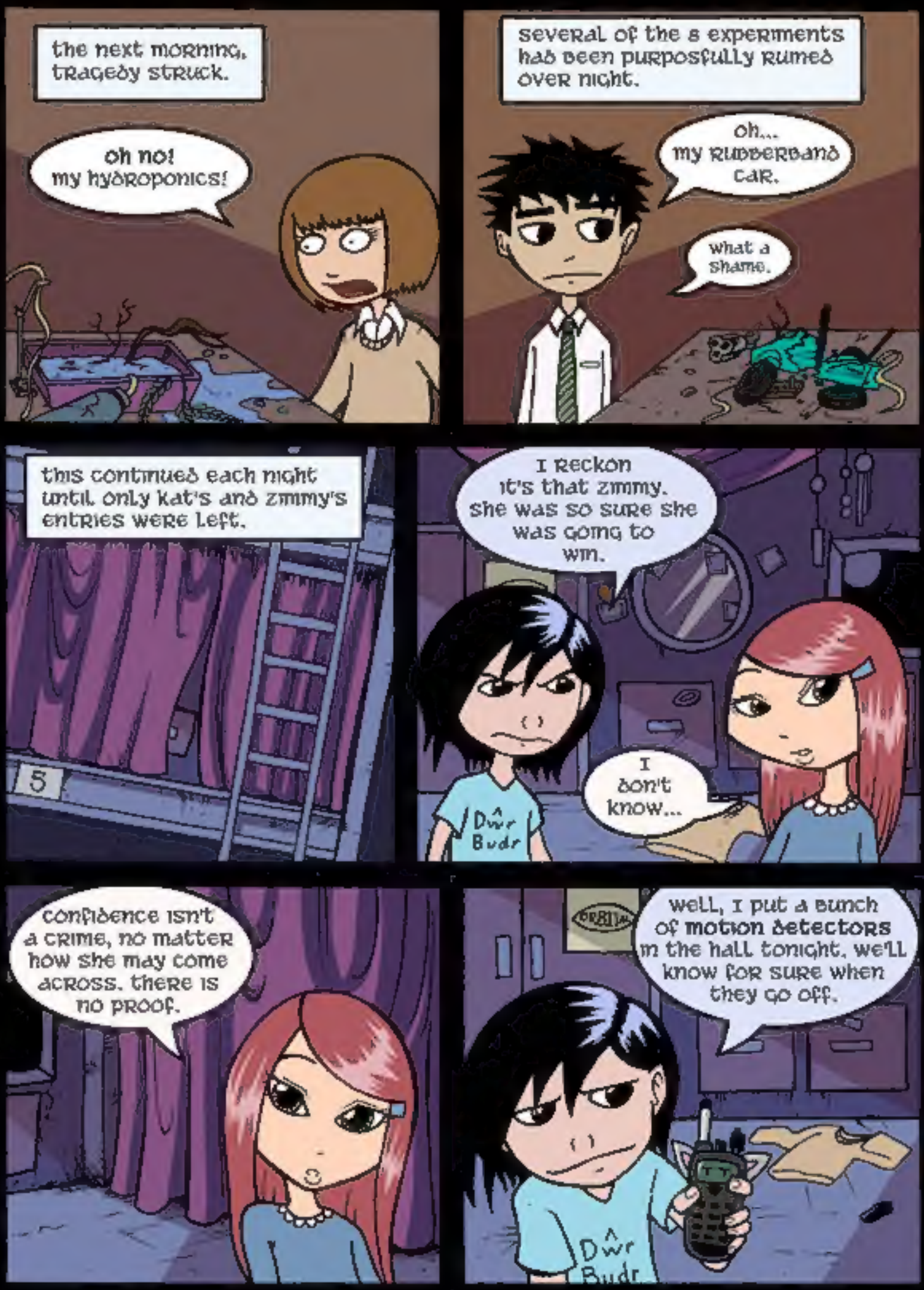
LIBRARY.
see, the actuator with the sample crystals is inserted into the thermal enclosure system and...
113
READ
hmm?
κινδυνος εντομο
What you lookin' at? you got a problem?!
eep! SORRY, I didn't know anyone was back here.
Important Stuff
like science


you should keep yer big nose outta where it don't belong!
hey! I said sorry!
is there a problem here?
hey I know you! yer that new girl... antimony, right? yeah, that's it.
then yer the donlan kid. I'll be seeing you at the science fair!
you have an entry in the competition?
yeah! zimmy and gamma, that's us! from chester south.
dlupie...
to nie było bardzo miłe.

huh? wha?
hey! what did you say to 'er?
bah! forget this!
I'll see you and bignose and 'er crappy invention tomorrow.
It would appear that quiet girl is polish.
huh?!
you speak polish, annie?
a little.
I don't have a big nose, do I?
you have a lovely nose.

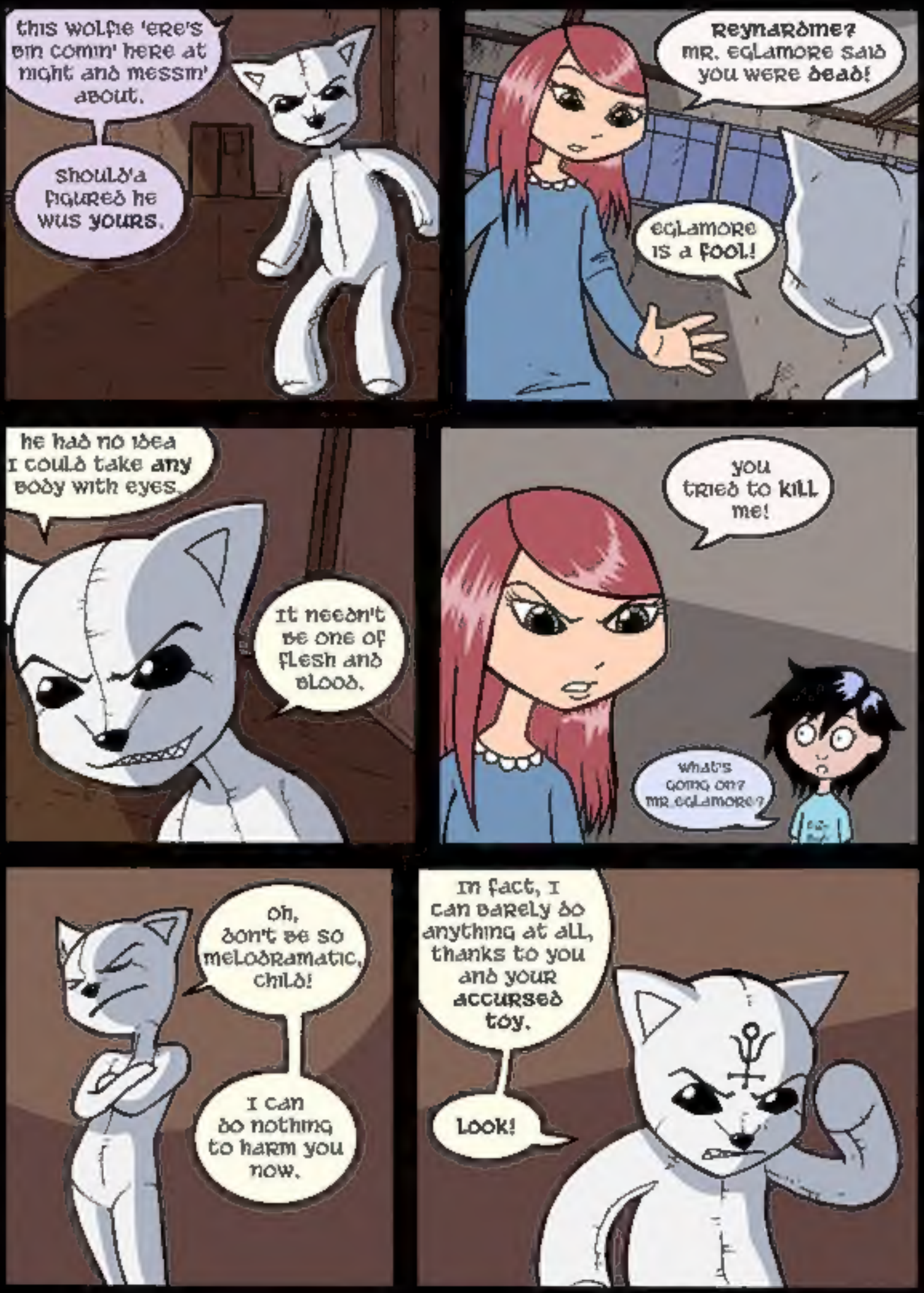
function hall 113
SCIENCE FAIR
ooh!
wow! zero gravity!
no! protein!
ALL ABOUT
ladies.
mr. eglamore! mum!
I see you're causing quite a stir with your experiment.
aww, it's nothing!
quite a chip off the ol' block, eh anja?
donald and I are so proud!
if you'll excuse me.

there are so many people...
oh!
hey you, carver! wanna see what the winning entry looks like?
you certainly are confident.
heh. take a look.
this is... an abomination.
bahaha!


the next morning, tragedy struck.
oh no! my hydroponics!
several of the 5 experiments has been purposfully rumed over night.
oh... my rubberband car.
what a shame.
this continued each night until only kat's and zimmy's entries were left.
5
I reckon it's that zimmy. she was so sure she was going to win.
I don't know...
Dwr Budr
confidence isn't a crime, no matter how she may come across. there is no proof.
well, I put a bunch of motion detectors in the hall tonight. we'll know for sure when they go off.
Dwr Budr

Late that night, kat's motion alarm did indeed go off.
meow!
meow!
?
we snuck out to the function hall as soon as we could.
clatter
click!
Dûr Budr
aha!

I knew it was you two!
Dûr Bud
y... you stole from me?
you are a thief!
Bah! you don't get it. We're here to find who's been messing with our stuff.
an' we found 'm!
come out you little git!
I know yer in there!
Gah! don't you touch me, you demon!

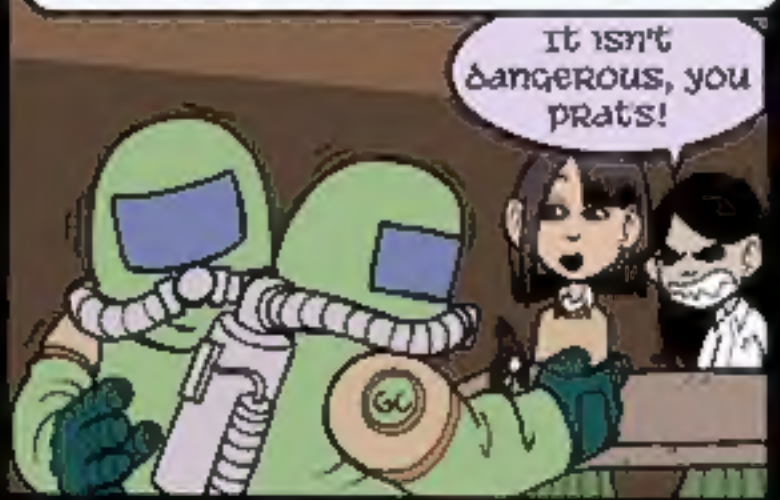

this wolfie 'ere's bin comin' here at night and messin' about.
should'a figured he wus yours.
Reynardine? Mr. Eglamore said you were dead!
Eglamore is a fool!
he had no idea I could take any body with eyes.
It needn't be one of flesh and blood.
you tried to kill me!
what's going on? Mr. Eglamore?
Oh, don't be so melodramatic, child!
I can do nothing to harm you now.
In fact, I can barely do anything at all, thanks to you and your accursed toy.
Look!

this symbol means I'm under your control. just as you own this body I inhabit, so do you now own me.
I can't even take a new body without your permission.
this doesn't explain why you sabotaged the science fair entries.
feh, well. you never told me not to do it.
besides, I hoped I could win your favour if I helped your gypsy friend win this blasted spectacle.
and yet you didn't touch zimmy's entry?
are you joking?
not even I would go near anything that girl has created!
heh.

Zimmy, I'm sorry I accused you of...
Whatever.
I don't need yer apologies.
I've 'ad enough of this.
I don't know what you are, but you're so cute!
Get off me!
pat pat
Dûr Budr
Dûr Budr

despite reynarôme's efforts to hinder the competition, the entries were judged fairly, and kat emerged the winner.

being from a different house, I did not know when or how I would come into contact with zimmy and gamma again, but I was certain I'd not seen the last of them.



in the meantime, however, I had a more pressing concern.

very well. in that case, you will turn back into a toy and remain in this box while I figure out what to do with you.